News Notes

from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
257 FOURTH AVENUE NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

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INAUGURAL MEETING - COUNCIL OF PROTESTANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Hotel Phillips, Kansas City, Missouri
Monday, January 5, 1959 6:15 P.M.

Address: Dr. Albert C. Outler
Perkins School of Theology
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas

(Reservations may be made on the enclosed card. Please give names of the guests you may be bringing, such as wife, trustee, dean, or faculty members)

The business session of the Council will convene at 9:00 A.M., Tuesday morning, at which time the Continuing Committee will make its report. Other items include a Panel on the Church Campaigns for Church Colleges and a report on the investigation regarding a possible Christian college program for Faculty Enlistment and Placement.

TRUSTEES CONFERENCE

A fourth Trustees Conference for Christian Colleges will be held at Southern Methodist University, November 14-15, 1958. Speaker at the opening session will be Mr. Milburn P. Akers, Executive Editor of the Chicago Sun-Times and Chairman of the National Committee of Church Men for Church Colleges. The Church Men's Committee will hold a meeting of the 14th, preceeding the Trustees Conference.

THE GROWING CONCERN FOR FACULTY

Underlining the concern of Church Board representatives who met some months ago to discuss the question of a united approach to the Faculty Enlistment and Placement problem for Church Colleges, is the report from the American Council on Education's recent meeting in Chicago.

"Staffing their faculties is more of a concern to administrators than getting the money or plant to provide for a doubled student enrollment within the next ten years. And it looms far larger than high school curriculum problems. Good college teachers are already in keen demand and they are expected to become one of the scarcest commodities in the economy.

.....there are fewer than 9,000 Ph.D.'s awarded each year. Against this are some estimates that the teaching staffs of American Colleges may have to double to 270,000 within ten years.....there probably won't even be enough candidates for the master's degree available in the immediate future". N.Y. Times 10/12/58

Returns from the questionnaire sent to the college presidents some months ago indicated that most colleges depend on the graduate schools and personal contacts for new faculty. The question the Church representatives were asking is whether this will do in the years ahead. Isn't it high time we embarked on a long-range united program to challenge Christian young people to enter college teaching as a Christian calling and at the same time set up a placement or registry service? The Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities will now assume responsibility for further investigation of this question with the churches.

STUDY OF CHURCH COLLEGES

We shall watch with interest the study of Church Colleges and their role in American education authorized by the Fund for the Advancement of Education. Dr. Pendleton Gaines, former President of Wofford College, will conduct the study.

In the June issue of Memo we referred to a study of "Science and Mathematics in the Catholic Schools" that gave some interesting information on mathematics and science offerings in Diocesan, Parish, and Private High Schools. At the time we suggested that similar information on the public high schools would be helpful. Since then, Dr. Tunis Baker of Hope College has sent us a copy of an article he has written containing some of this information. Unfortunately we cannot print the article (write to Dr. Baker at Hope College, Holland, Michigan), but we do give you a summary.

MORE FACTS ON HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHING

1. More than three-fourths of the students majoring in college science had three or more years of science in high school.
2. In at least one study made in Michigan, the results showed that science and mathematics were not subjects usually slighted in high school.
3. Seventy per cent of the students, majoring in college science had three or more years of mathematics in high school.
4. This study, as well as others, showed that more than two-thirds of the students majoring in college science became interested in science while in high school.
5. Perhaps the most revealing disclosure in this study was the fact that more were guided toward careers in science by their teachers than by anyone else.

A recent report from James B. Conant on Maryland shows that among the superior (120 IQ or over) students:

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- in 24% of the schools nearly all the boys had at least seven years of mathematics and science.
- in over 50% of the schools two-thirds of the boys had seven years of mathematics and science.
- in over 50% of the schools, virtually all the boys had six years of mathematics and science.
- in only 11% of the schools were virtually all the able girls getting seven years of mathematics and science.
- in 70% of the schools one half of the girls had six years of mathematics and science.
- in foreign languages very few able students were taking more than two years.

STUDY QUESTIONED

Referring again to studies. W. G. Land, Research Consultant in Education, Washington, D.C., expresses dissatisfaction with the findings of the study "Retention and Withdrawal of College Students" by the U.S. Office of Education. "I, for one, am not willing to accept much of that data as valid, since it elicits a series of post hoc opinions and the study itself is not adequately constructed as an attitude survey. Furthermore, there are some unfortunate--to my mind--references to church colleges made on the basis of a sampling which apparently was not intended to be representative of them."

For the first time in years the members of the staffs of the department of higher education of the Churches will meet together in a Conference to be held in Nashville, November 21-23, 1958. The relations with the churches to higher education have become steadily more complex in wider areas so that these concerns can no longer be discussed by five or six church board secretaries meeting informally. The Nashville conference, it is hoped, will be the first of regular such meetings where church secretaries concerned with all phases of the relation to higher education may find out what is going on in other areas, exchange ideas, and develop mutual understanding and confidence. Among the subjects to be discussed will be the proposed National Student Christian Federation, The Life and Mission of the Church Project, a report on the Michigan Conference on "Religion in the State University", Church Campaigns for Support of Their Colleges and Student Work, and a report from Chaplain George Woods of Cambridge University, England, on "Christian Faith and Learning in the British Universities".

CONFERENCE OF CHURCH STAFF LEADERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

"Religion and the State University" is the theme of what should be a most significant conference at the University of Michigan, November 16-19, 1958.

UNIVERSITY & RELIGION

Speaking at the University of Missouri's Journalism Week, "Century" editor, Harold E. Fey said it was "high time" that the American secular press "should venture to report and evaluate religion in depth". A responsible press, Dr. Fey said, should challenge the many forms of "vulgarization of religion". These include "the peace of mind cult, the 'Man Upstairs' kind of sentimentality, the nationalistic notion that God is Uncle Sam in a different set of whiskers, the superstition-mongers, the psychologizers and the mass revivalists". Dr. Fey added: "They include the men who try to fasten a Christopher medal to a space missile, as well as the men who urge soldiers to carry New Testaments over their hearts, not because they read them, but because they may magically stop a bullet."

UNIVERSITY HONOURS CHRISTIAN CENTURY

The press has, in part, created "the current American fashion of religiosity", which, "should be ventilated by the press", he said. "This religiosity is the greatest single peril faced by valid religion. It spreads a thin veneer of piety over millions whose church membership is nothing more than social conformity."

A new Counsellor's Guide to Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, will be published November 1, 1958---it will provide useful information on choosing a college, costs, etc. Free to Pastors, counselors and prospective students. (Division of Education, Methodist Board of Education, Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee)

COUNSELLOR GUIDE ON COLLEGES

The November, 1958 issue of the International Journal of Religious Education is a special issue on the theme "Being Christian Where You Work". In it will be articles on the Christian meaning of work. Among the authors -- Robert Calhoun of Yale, Cameron Hall, N.C.C., Department of Church and Economic Life, Robert Michaelson, State University of Iowa. The Prospectus looks excellent.

THE CHRISTIAN AND WORK

We call your attention to a unique sound, color filmstrip entitled "Meet Bill Hayden" which describes the functions of a local church director of Christian Education. College vocational guidance departments and audio-visual libraries will find this new filmstrip a welcome resource. It was produced according to the specifications of the Directors' Section of the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches and has received a recommended rating in the Audio-Visual Resource Guide (Fourth Edition). The filmstrip, 33-1/3 r.p.m. record, and user's guide may be purchased in a complete package for $12.00. Send check and order direct to "Frank Bear Film Productions, Inc., 3426 Bay Front Place, Baldwin, New York."

FILMSTRIP ON VOCATION OF LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Two Issues of The Christian Scholar are of unusual interest

- Orders for the Special Issue reporting on the CONVOCATION OF CHRISTIAN COLLEGES continue to roll in. It is providing very useful information for faculty and student discussions. Some presidents are ordering quantity lots for distribution among faculty members but also for putting them in the hands of trustees, alumni leaders, and other key persons in the college constituency. DEMAND FOR CONVOCATION ISSUE OF THE SCHOLAR

- The current issue deals with CHRISTIAN FAITH AND NATURAL SCIENCE and includes -
  "The Challenge of the New Cosmology" - Donald Andrews (Bio-physics John Hopkins)
  "Man's Idea of Creation" Michael B. Foster (Philosophy, Oxford)
  "On Relating Science and Religion" - Harold K. Schilling with comments by theologians and physicists
  (It has been suggested that a flyer describing this should be sent to the 40,000 scientists in the country. But so far no one has given the funds to make it possible.) FAITH AND SCIENCE

The September 13 Issue of Saturday Review of Literature--Accent on Education Issue. A quote from Nietzche expresses the theme of Dr. Viktor E. Frankl's article "The Search for Meaning". "He who knows a Why of living surmounts almost every How". Djamal Yala of Algeria has some thoughtful comments on "Is He (the American student) too far removed from Reality?", and John MacMurray who stimulated so many of us 30 years ago with his "Creative Society" has a brief but pertinent article on "Values, as well as Intellect, need Cultivation", and much more. WORTH READING

The American Council on Education has made a real contribution with its study of today's students (They Come for the Best of Reasons). There isn't space to review it. Suffice to say the study shows that today's students are sharply different from those of twenty-five years ago and quite different from those of just five years ago---nearly half are over 21, more are from working class families, the basic ability is far higher than previously and on the whole they are serious about education and less interested in "student activities". It is worth careful study to see whether today's institutions have caught up with the students. TODAY'S STUDENTS

Two recent magazine articles give further information on the sordid picture of intercollegiate athletics - Saturday Evening Post, October 18, 1958 and Atlantic Monthly, November, 1958 in an article, "College Athletics - Their Pressure on the High Schools", by Eugene Youngert, which reveals how the college situation is now corrupting the high schools. It is good to know that many Christian colleges have made significant progress in bringing the athletic program in harmony with the academic and Christian aims of the college. It is tragic to see how many colleges and universities continue to act in terms of expediency if not corruption. As long as this situation prevails the wails about the lack of moral fortitude and ethical principles in students are hollow and hypocritical. It is a sad commentary that the very institutions that should be lifting national standards are engaged in corrupting the ethical and moral principles of our educated leadership. THE MESS IN ATHLETIC

Many of you have received, or will soon, a booklet, entitled, "Working Together Through the National Council of Churches". It is a handy reference piece answering the often-asked questions. - What is the National Council of Churches? What does it do? How does it operate? If you need one, write to the Public Relations Department of the National Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York, New York. INFORMATION ON THE N.C.C.

HUBERT C. NOBLE
General Director
Commission on Higher Education